Serial No. 09/399,694 Docket No. ST999037 Firm No. 0055.0009

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application.

This amendment is being concurrently filed with a Notice of Appeal in the abovecaptioned application.

This amendment is being filed merely to respond to the objections to FIG. 2 in paragraph 3 of the Office Action mailed on January 17, 2003.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for holding a telephone conference with Applicants' representative, Janaki K. Davda, on March 3, 2003. During the telephone conference, Examiner Nguyen indicated that labels should be added to FIG. 2. Therefore, Applicants' are submitting a drawing sheet with reference number 50 labeled as "clean parameter field" and with reference number 80 labeled as "rule definition" in red ink for the Examiner's approval. Support for these labels may be found in the Specification at, for example, page 8, line 17 - page 9, line 12. Applicants' respectfully request entry of these amendments.

In paragraph 5, the Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 13-20, 26-33, and 39-46 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Knudsen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,752) in view of Graefe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,342 B1). Applicants traverse these rejections and will address them in an appeal brief.

In paragraph 7, the Office Action rejects claims 8-12, 21-25, and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Knudsen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,752) in view of Graefe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,342 B1) in view of Delong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,552). Applicants traverse these rejections and will address them in an appeal brief.

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The under signed attorney invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 556-7983 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: March 25, 2003

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